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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
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AMCONSUL HAMBURG UNN
AMCONSUL STUTTGART UNN

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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
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UNCLAS MUNICH 808

SUBJECT: BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT SUPPORTS RELEASE OF RUDOLF HESS

1. THE SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG AND OTHER PAPERS TODAY REPORT THAT BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT ALFONS GOPPEL HAS CALLED UPON CHANCELLOR KIESINGER IN A LETTER TO REPRESENT THE VIEWPOINT

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VIS-A-VIS THE ALLIED POWERS THAT THE EARLY RELEASE FROM SPANDAU OF RUDOLF HESS IS A "COMMAND OF HUMANITY." GOPPEL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSLY DENIES IN HIS LETTER ANY WISH TO TAKE A POSITION REGARDING THE "GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF HESS OR THE PROBLEMATIC OF THE NUERNBERG TRIALS."

2. SIMULTANEOUSLY IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT GOPPEL HAS DECLINED TO SIGN A PETITION ON BEHALF OF HESS WHICH WAS RECENTLY CIRCULATED BY THE "ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (HILFSGEMEIVNCHAFT) RUDOLF HESS". A LEADING OFFICIAL IN THE BAVARIAN STATE CHANCELLERY REPORTEDLY WROTE TO WOLF HESS, SON OF RUDOLF AND ORGANIZER OF THE HILFSGEMEINSCHAFT, THAT GOPPEL, AS MINISTER PRESIDENT OF

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A MEMBER STATE (LAND) OF THE FRG, COULD NOT SIGN A DECLARATION BEARING ON A MATTER WHICH LIES WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE LETTER REPORTEDLY WEN. ON TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT GOPPEL COULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG THE GERMAN PERSONAGES WHO FAVOR THE RELEASE OF HESS. STALDER

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